

ARC920000029US1
09/658,632REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Examiner's Office Action dated 4/19/2004 and further in view of the interview of 5/13/2004. Applicants are appreciative of the courteous and professional manner in which the interview was conducted by the examiner. This amendment should obviate outstanding issues and make the remaining claims allowable. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the remarks that follow.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1, 2, 5-12 and 14-25 are pending.

Claims 1, 2, 5-12 and 14-25 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Landsman et al. (USP 6,317,761) in view of Jacobs et al. (WO 01/043014).

In the Claims

Rejections to claims 4, 6, 8, 16-17, 20-25 are considered moot in view of their cancellation via the current amendment. An agreement was reached during the interview of 5/13/2004, with respect to the amendment of the independent claims. The examiner suggested that applicants' file a proposed amendment based on the interview of 5/13/2004. A proposed amendment was sent to the examiner via facsimile on 05/18/2004, wherein, as per the examiner's suggestion, independent claims 1, 11, 18, and 19 were amended. In a follow-up telephone conversation with the examiner on 05/20/2004, the examiner instructed the applicants' representative to file a formal After Final Amendment. The current amendment includes claim changes based on the proposed amendment.

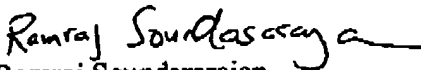
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Based upon the arguments presented during the interview of 5/13/2004, the follow-up interview of 05/20/2004, and the current amendment, applicants believe that independent claims 1, 11, 18, and 19 read over the art of record and are in allowable form. It is believed that this case is in condition for allowance and reconsideration thereof and early issuance is respectfully requested.

As this amendment has been timely filed within the set period of response, no petition for extension of time or associated fee is required. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies in the fees provided to Deposit Account No. 12-0010.

If it is felt that an interview would expedite prosecution of this application, please do not hesitate to contact applicants' representative at the below number.

Respectfully submitted,


Ramraj Soundararajan
Registration No. 53,832

1725 Duke Street
Suite 650
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 838-7683
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